

bless them. And we worry about the lack of attention to defense.

I would remind my Democratic colleagues that any action they take on this budget proposal won't exist in a vacuum, and I ask them to reconsider their justification for asking the American people, who just survived a global pandemic and a near total economic collapse—I think they should reconsider their justification for asking them to bankroll an activist-driven, radical, fantasy budget that nobody really asked for.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNITED STATES INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the U.S. Innovation & Competition Act the Senate passed yesterday sends a loud, clear signal to the Government of the People's Republic of China and to the Chinese Communist Party: American foreign policy is grounded in our values, and we will work with our allies to defend our interests and to protect our friends. Enactment of this bill will place the United States in a much stronger position to thwart Chinese aggression, uphold human rights, increase U.S. competitiveness, and enhance our national security.

I am proud to have worked on a bipartisan basis with Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member RISCH and other colleagues in both parties to put forward legislation ensuring that defense of human rights and good governance and upgrading our armory in the battle against corruption remains at the forefront of our national security policy.

This measure will complement the action President Biden took just last week to define the fight against corruption as a "core U.S. national security interest." In the National Security Study Memorandum the President released on June 3, he ordered a high-level review of how our government, our partners, and others can work to-

gether to combat illicit, corrosive corrupt activity.

The interagency review that he directed the National Security Advisor to lead should yield a robust strategy that brings all the tools at the disposal of the United States to bear on one of the most consequential problems we face. I look forward to seeing the results of this high-level report and working with the Biden-Harris administration to target corruption wherever we find it. In the meantime, the legislation the Senate has passed will provide the Executive with more tools.

While corruption is a global issue—no country is immune from the disease that is corruption—it is important that we bring this fight directly to the Chinese Government. S. 1260 calls for a report to Congress on the corruption and corrupt activities of the senior officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China so that the United States can expose these individuals and hold them accountable.

Congress cannot—and must not—turn a blind eye to the People's Republic of China's shocking, systematic abuse of its Uighur population, as well as of ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region. This ongoing genocide demands a forceful U.S. response.

The U.S. Innovation and Competition Act protects the innocent victims of these atrocities by authorizing appropriations for protecting human rights to include programs that prioritize the protection and advancement of the freedoms of association, assembly, religion, and expression for women, human rights activists, and ethnic and religious minorities in China. The bill also authorizes and encourages the imposition of sanctions relating to forced labor and with respect to systematic rape, coercive abortion, forced sterilization, and involuntary contraceptive implantation in the Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region.

Beijing's plan to circumvent Hong Kong's independent legal system with a far-reaching, oppressive national security law is dangerous and in complete disregard of the principles of the "one country, two systems." S. 1260 ensures that we stand with Hong Kong's citizens for their freedoms, democracy, and basic human rights by authorizing funding for the promotion of democracy in China and specifically in Hong Kong.

Until the Chinese Communist Party changes its behavior, we and our allies and partners must hold it accountable. This bill reiterates our strong, bipartisan commitment to working together to call out brutal regimes and use tools like the Global Magnitsky Act to hold individuals accountable for their violations of human rights and corrupt practices.

The bill permanently reauthorizes the Global Magnitsky Act, allowing the U.S. Government to continue to utilize this valuable tool. While this is a crucial step, I also hope we signifi-

cantly expand the Global Magnitsky sanctions authority by adopting parameters used to implement Executive Order 13818.

The United States can counter Chinese threats to our national security by upholding our values, emphasizing transparency, and exposing corruption, but other nations must see that we live, as well as preach, our values.

I am gratified that S. 1260 includes my proposal to expand a ban on postemployment by senior State Department officials on lobbying the U.S. Government on behalf of any foreign governments and state-owned entities. Doing so ensures that the U.S. Government practices what we preach, removing the appearance that our diplomats might be doing less than their best on behalf of the American people in order to position themselves for immediate postemployment jobs advocating for foreign interests.

I was pleased to join many of my colleagues in supporting several specific initiatives to hold the Chinese Communist Party and other regimes accountable.

The Transnational Repression Accountability & Prevention, TRAP, Act, which I am proud to co-lead with my colleague Senator WICKER, who is also ranking member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, takes aim at the pervasive and pernicious problem of authoritarian abuse of INTERPOL. Dictators regularly submit to INTERPOL abusive red notices and diffusions based on false or trumped-up charges in an effort to coerce law enforcement agencies in democratic countries to harass and even extradite those who have spoken out against oppression and corruption.

Bill Browder, who ensured that Sergei Magnitsky's courage and integrity became known to the world and who worked closely with me on the Magnitsky Act, has been subject to no fewer than eight abusive INTERPOL red notices submitted by the Russian Government. While Bill Browder's case is emblematic of the wider problem, he is by no means alone. Countries such as Russia, China, and Turkey regularly file abusive red notices to go after those individuals who have fallen afoul of these regimes, despite this being a clear violation of INTERPOL's constitution.

Adding the TRAP Act to S. 1260 would do three things. First, it sets priorities for the United States in responding to INTERPOL abuse and promoting reform within INTERPOL. It is critical that the United States use its voice, vote, and influence within the organization to reestablish its rule of law foundation. Second, it identifies areas for improvement in the U.S. Government's response to INTERPOL abuse and mandates that the Agencies tasked with managing U.S. engagement at INTERPOL examine and determine who the abusers are, their tactics, and how the United States can best respond. Finally, it protects the

U.S. judicial system from the influence of abusive INTERPOL notices by clearly mandating that no person may be extradited solely because of a red notice or diffusion.

Thanks to the TRAP Act, autocrats will be much less able to abuse INTERPOL's information-sharing protocols, and dissidents can sleep better at night knowing that the long arm of dictatorship will be held at bay.

I am also pleased to have worked with Senator RUBIO to include in S. 1260 the South China Sea & East China Sea Sanctions Act. This measure authorizes the President to impose blocking sanctions and prohibit visas for Chinese individuals who contribute to construction or development projects and those who threaten the peace, security, or stability of the South China Sea, SCS, or East China Sea, ECS. China's military has been creating artificial islands in the South China Sea and thereby asserting that its sovereignty extends into the long-recognized territorial waters of other nations and they are using these creations as military outposts to threaten their neighbors further. The SCS & ECS Sanctions Act also imposes sanctions on foreign financial institutions that knowingly conduct or facilitate a significant financial transaction for sanctioned persons if China takes several actions in the SCS or ECS.

Finally, the measure gives the Executive authorization to curtail foreign assistance to countries that recognize China's sovereignty in the SCS or the ECS, with exceptions for Taiwan, counterterrorism, democracy support, counter-narcotics, global health, and humanitarian assistance.

Collectively, all of the provisions I have just discussed reinforce the values that drive our foreign policy. The U.S. Innovation & Competition Act will prove to be an important tool in countering the People's Republic of China and other authoritarian regimes around the world. I want to commend Senator SCHUMER for his persistence with respect to bringing this bipartisan bill to the floor, and for allowing its consideration under regular order.

REMEMBERING EARL MICHAEL WILLIS

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of a young man who was not only an intern in my congressional office but also a friend. Earl Michael Willis was born on May 29, 1993, in Baton Rouge and was the beloved son of Earl and Cristal Willis. He grew up in Brusly, LA, and attended Holy Family School and Catholic High School in Baton Rouge. Michael developed a strong connection to God during his formative years, especially through close friendship with Father Michael Allelo, and his Christian faith and values were an important aspect of his daily life. When Michael was in middle school, his sister Rachael Lynn passed away from cancer. From that point on,

Michael's life was dedicated to his sister's memory, and he and his family participated in many Light the Night events. More recently, Michael and his wife Megan established a nonprofit foundation named "Running for Rachael" in honor of his sister.

Ever since working at River Road Day Care in Port Allen in high school, Michael was passionate about advocacy. At age 20, he became a legislative assistant to Cindy Bishop of Checkmate Strategies and went on to become the director of business development for the firm after finishing college. Michael graduated from Louisiana State University in May 2015 in political science. While at LSU, he was an active member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and vice president of policy for The Center for Development and Learning, where he led the center's "Literacy and Economic Development" summit and led a highly successful "Literacy Day at the Capitol." Michael married the love of his life, Megan Voda, on April 17, 2020. He possessed an incomparable measure of love and devotion for his wife, his parents, and all of his family. Sharing quality time with them was always atop his list of priorities.

Michael is survived by his wife Megan, parents Earl and Cristal Willis, brother Nicholas Boudreaux, nephews Noah and Nicholas Boudreaux, mother and father-in-law Cris and Tim Voda, sister-in-law Katie Voda, his honorary nephews Beau Seymour and Harrison Danna, his honorary nieces Lilly Seymour and Caroline Danna, and a host of aunts, uncles, extended family, and friends. Michael Willis was a truly loving and inspiring individual who always ensured that those around him felt loved, valued, and appreciated. He will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACK BUELL

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, along with my colleague Senator JIM RISCH, I congratulate Jack Buell, of St. Maries, ID, on his extraordinary 46 years of public service as Benewah County commissioner. We thank him for contributing his time, talent, and resources to the people of St. Maries, Benewah County, and to Idaho.

Throughout his time in leadership, Jack has earned deep respect and admiration for his unwavering commitment to the community and county he loves. Jack Buell was first elected Benewah County commissioner nearly five decades ago in 1974, and he served steadily as commissioner until December 2020. Jack is known as someone who can be counted on to help meet the needs of the community. For example, Jack made his own property available to the U.S. Forest Service to use as a fire base. There are many other examples

of his generosity and outstanding service, as he seems to never tire of doing what needs to be done.

Jack is truly a stalwart of our great State. He and his wife Eleanor own Jack Buell Trucking based in St. Maries. This business has long been a pillar in the community, providing jobs that support families and contributing to Benewah County's economic base. In addition to his business and service as Benewah County commissioner, Jack has supported and served on boards for many local and State organizations. He has been formally recognized for his contributions to the community and State, including his 2012 induction into the Idaho Hall of Fame and receiving the Idaho Distinguished Service Medal in 2021.

Jack is someone with great integrity, dedication, experience, wisdom, and institutional knowledge. He adds humor, curiosity, know-how, humility, and hard work to the countless challenges he has faced throughout his remarkable career. Jack has led by example for decades, and despite all he has done, he is not resting from service. We understand his ongoing efforts include increasing safety on the roads of St. Maries.

Thank you, Jack, for all you have done and continue to do for Idahoans. We are honored to join many others in expressing our gratitude to you for a lifetime of exceptional service.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1153. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10022-28-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1154. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation" (RIN0790-AK41) received in the